Grants-in-Aid Scheme of National Afforestation and Eco-development Board in the Ministry. The proposals of NGOs for financial assistance under this scheme are received duly scrutinized and prioritized through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of the State. During last three years, Ministry of Environment and Forests has given financial assistance of Rs. 55.45 lakh for the purpose of afforestation to 15 NGOs whose proposals were received through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh.

Declaration of Bankapur as 'Peacock Conservation Reserve'

1336. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to include Bankapur forest close to Haveri in Karnataka under a new category of protection called 'Conservation Reserves';

(b) whether it is a fact that it has a population of nearly 1,000 peacocks;

(c) whether the Bankapur forest and temples belonging to the Hoysala reign would be included under this plan; and

(d) when the final declaration would be made declaring the area as 'Bankapur Convservation Reserve'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Karnataka an area of 139.10 acres at Bankapur Fort area has been found feasible for declaration as 'Conservation Reserve'.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Nagareswara Temple and Yellamma Devi Temple are included under the plan.

(d) Under the Wildlife (Protection) Act,1972 the declaration of an area as Conservation Reserve falls under the domain of the State Government.